

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10

L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 EB-11 GSA-02 INT-08 FMC-04

COME-00 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 052872

R 111530Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1743

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, US, XT

SUBJECT: PROPOSED EC INLAND WATERWAY TONNAGE CAPACITY
REGULATIONS--US LASH/SEABEE OPERATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 64138, (B) STATE 69892

1. THE EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT ACTION RESPONSIBILITY FOR LASH AND SEABEE OPERATIONS WITHIN THE FRG MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (FMT) HAS BEEN SHIFTED FROM THE OCEAN SHIPPING DIVISION IN HAMBURG TO THE INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HERE IN BONN. HENCE, THE LATTER IS CONCERNED WITH COORDINATING AN FMT POSITION ON THE DRAFT EC DIRECTIVE. WE DISCUSSED THE MATERIAL OUTLINED IN REF (A) WITH FMT INLAND WATERWAY OFFICIAL SCHMITT POINTING OUT, IN PARTICULAR, THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE US TO FACILITATE THE MOVEMENT OF FOREIGN REGISTRY SPECIALITY BARGES ON US INLAND WATERWAYS. WE PROVIDED SCHMITT WITH A SUMMARY PAPER (AT HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUEST) AND URGED THAT US VIEWS BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

IN THE FORMULATION OF A GERMAN POSITION.

2. AFTER REVIEWING THE PAPER, SCHMITT TOLD US THAT IT WOULD BE SOME TIME BEFORE A FINAL GERMAN POSITION COULD BE DEVELOPED. HE EXPLAINED THAT, AT PRESENT, THE FRG'S PRINCIPAL PROBLEM WITH THE DRAFT EC DIRECTIVE CENTERED ON FRENCH INSISTENCE THAT ITS COVERAGE BE LIMITED TO THE RHINE RIVER WHEREAS THE GERMANS FAVORED THE EXTENSION OF COMPENSATION TO OPERATORS PLYING ALL FRG INLAND WATERWAYS. IN SCHMITT'S PERSONAL VIEW THE CHANCES OF REACHING A COMPROMISE WITH THE FRENCH ARE REMOTE, THUS THE DIRECTIVE IS UNLIKELY TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THE DIRECTIVE'S IMPLICATIONS FOR LASH/SEABEE OPERATIONS HAVE THUS FAR RECEIVED ONLY SLIGHT ATTENTION IN BONN. THE EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AS APPROPRIATE.
HILLENBRAND

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